This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for packaging products, such as candies, in ~~a~~ an array of removable enclosures ~~enclosure~~, comprising the steps of:

positioning the products on a planar first sheet which is continuously moved in a transport direction, the products have an elongated form and are positioned transversely on the first moving sheet such that the distance between the products is less than the height of the products,

covering the products by a second sheet which is separate from the first sheet and continuously moved in the same transport direction and which is aligned substantially plane-parallel to the first sheet, ~~and~~

ultrasonic sealing the first and second sheets together near the outer edges of the individual products or grouped products by a sealing device,

folding longitudinal sides of the sealed first and second sheets upwards; and

separating the products into arrays of multiple, connected products, whereby the folded longitudinal sides enhance rigidity of the arrays,

wherein the sealing device comprises sealing ribs extending substantially transversely to the transport direction on one side of the moving sheets,

wherein said sealing ribs are being moved at the same speed as the sheets and the sealing ribs extend between the products to seal the first and second sheets together in between the moving products or grouped products, and

wherein said second sheet is pre-shaped to fit at least partially around the products or grouped products before the sheet comes into contact with the products or grouped products.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sealing device comprises

a rotating frame, having a rotation axis extending transversely to the transport direction,

wherein said sealing ribs extend from a coaxial cylindrical surface of said frame.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said pre-shaping action is performed by a pre-shaping device comprising

a first rotating shaping frame on one side of the moving sheet and

a second rotating shaping frame on the opposite side of the moving sheet,

wherein the rotation axes of both frames extending transversely to the transport direction of the sheet,

wherein said frames comprise co-operating protruding shaping ribs extending substantially transversely to the transport direction,

wherein the shaping ribs of both frames move between each other, and wherein said shaping ribs are being moved at the same speed as the pre-shaped sheet.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first pre-shaping frame is positioned such that it guides the pre-shaped film towards the other moving sheet while including the products.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic sealing step comprises co-operation between an ultrasonic welding device and the sealing ribs. ~~ultrasonic welding the first and second sheets together~~.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sealed areas between the products are perforated or scored, such that the packaged products stay attached to each other, but can be easily separated.

9. (Currently Amended) A device for packaging products, such as candies, comprising

a first transport drive for continuously moving a planar first sheet in a transport direction,

positioning means for positioning the products on the planar first sheet,

a pre-shaping device comprising

a first rotating shaping frame on one side of a moving second sheet and

a second rotating shaping frame on the opposite side of the second moving sheet,

wherein the rotation axes of both frames extending transversely to the transport direction of the second sheet,

wherein said frames comprise co-operating protruding shaping ribs extending substantially transversely to the transport direction,

wherein the shaping ribs of both frames move between each other, and

wherein said shaping ribs are being moved at the same speed as the pre-shaped sheet,

a second transport drive arranged to move the pre-shaped second sheet, the second sheet being separate from the first sheet in the same transport direction in alignment substantially plane-parallel to the first sheet while covering the products, and

~~a~~ an ultrasonic sealing device for sealing the first and second sheets together near the outer edges of the individual or grouped products,

wherein the ultrasonic sealing device comprises

protruding sealing ribs extending substantially transversely to the transport direction to contact the planar first sheet, and

synchronizing means for moving said sealing ribs at the same speed as the sheets while sealing the first and second sheets together in between the moving products.

10. (Previously presented) A method for packaging products, such as candies, comprising the steps of:

positioning the products on a planar first sheet which is continuously moved in a transport direction,

covering the products by a second sheet which is separate from the first sheet and continuously moved in the same transport direction and which is aligned substantially plane-parallel to the first sheet, and

sealing the first and second sheets together near the outer edges of the individual grouped products by a sealing device,

wherein at least one of said sheets is pre-shaped by a pre-shaping device to fit at least partially around the products before the sheet comes into contact with the products,

wherein said pre-shaping device comprises

a first rotating shaping frame on one side of the moving sheet and

a second rotating shaping frame on the opposite side of the moving sheet,

wherein the rotation axes of both frames extending transversely to the transport direction of the sheet,

wherein said frames comprise co-operating protruding shaping ribs extending substantially transversely to the transport direction,

wherein the shaping ribs of both frames move between each other, and wherein said shaping ribs are being moved at the same speed as the pre-shaped sheet.

11. (Previously presented) A device for packaging products, such as candies, comprising

a first transport drive for continuously moving a planar first sheet in a transport direction, positioning means for positioning the products on the first sheet,

a second transport drive for continuously moving a second sheet that is separate from the first sheet in the same transport direction in alignment substantially plane-parallel to the first sheet while covering the products,

a sealing device for sealing the first and second sheets together near the outer edges of the individual or grouped products, and

a pre-shaping device for pre-shaping the second sheet to fit at least partially around the products before the sheet comes into contact with the products,

wherein said pre- shaping device comprises

a first rotating shaping frame on one side of the moving sheet,

a second rotating shaping frame on the opposite side of the moving sheet, and

synchronizing means for moving said shaping ribs at the same speed as the pre-shaped sheet,

wherein the rotation axes of both frames extending transversely to the transport direction of the sheet,

wherein said frames comprise co-operating protruding shaping ribs extending substantially transversely to the transport direction, wherein the shaping ribs of both frames are movable between each other.

12. (Previously presented) An array of packaged products, such as candies, comprising

two separate sheets which are sealed together and enclose said products or groups of products,

wherein the sealed areas between the products are weakened, such that the packaged products can be easily separated,

wherein one of said sheets is a substantially flat relatively rigid board or film and the other sheet is a relatively flexible foil or film shaped to fit at least partially around the products, and wherein the products have an elongated form and are positioned transversely with respect to the sheets and the sides of the sealed sheets extending from the outer ends of the sheets are bent in order to give the array rigidity in its longitudinal direction.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A bandolier of packaged candy bars, comprising:

an array of candy bars, each candy bar having a longitudinal axis that is parallel to and spaced apart from the longitudinal axes of other candy bars in the array; and

a wrap forming plural air-tight units, each of the wrap units containing at least one of the candy bars, the wrap unit including:

a substantially flat lower sheet extending beneath the array;

an upper sheet that is separate from the lower sheet, the upper sheet including a central top portion, a pair of opposing side portions extending generally downwardly from the top portion, and a pair of opposing end portions extending transversely from the top portion;

end seals formed between the upper sheet end portions and the lower sheet; and

ultrasonic welded transverse seals formed between the upper sheet side portions and the lower sheet, the transverse seals being perforated or scored to enable disconnecting one wrap unit from another while maintaining an air-tight seal of each wrap unit;

wherein the upper sheet end portions and portions of the lower sheet forming the end seals are folded upwardly, whereby rigidity of the package is enhanced.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 15 wherein each one of the wrap units is non-symmetrical about a horizontal plane.

18. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 15 wherein the upper sheet of each one of the wrap units has an inverted U-shape.

19. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 15 wherein an underside of the lower sheet consists of a substantially flat surface.

20. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 15 wherein the distance between each candy bar in the array is less than the height of each candy bar.

21. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 15 wherein the transverse seals are parallel to the longitudinal axes of the candy bars.

22. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 15 wherein the lower sheet is parallel to a plane defined by the longitudinal axes of the candy bars.

23. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 15 wherein the lower sheet is relatively rigid.

24. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 23 wherein the lower sheet is a plastic-coated cardboard.

25. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 15 wherein the wrap unit is a tube.

26. (Previously presented) A bandolier of packaged candy bars comprising:

a substantially flat lower film;

an array of elongate candy bars spaced apart in a side-to-side relationship;

an upper film that is separate from the lower film, the upper film sealed to the lower film between at least some of the candy bars in the array to form transverse seals that are parallel to a longitudinal axis of the candy bars;

the upper film sealed to the lower film at the ends of the candy bars of the array to form end seals, the transverse seals and end seals forming airtight wrap units, each wrap unit containing at least one candy bar; and

the transverse seals located between adjacent wrap units including a score or perforation enabling a unit to be disconnected from an adjacent wrap unit while each wrap unit remains airtight;

wherein the upper sheet end portions and portions of the lower sheet forming the end seals are folded upwardly, whereby rigidity of the package is enhanced.

27. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 26 wherein the upper film extends from a first one of the transverse seals over at least one of the candy bars to a second one of the transverse seals.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 26 wherein each one of the wrap units is non-symmetrical about a horizontal plane.

30. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 26 wherein the upper film of each one of the wrap units has an inverted U-shape.

31. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 26 wherein an underside of the lower film consists of a substantially flat surface.

32. (Previously presented) The bandolier of claim 26 wherein the distance between each candy bar in the array is less than the height of each candy bar.